

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 06067 161218Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-07 NEAE-00 SS-15 PM-05 SP-02  
/040 W

-----051546 161223Z /50

P 160840Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7776

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6067

STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR NEA/VELIOTES AND INR FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MBOL, PBOR, IS  
SUBJECT: SENIOR IDF ATTITUDES TOWARD U.S. PEACE EFFORTS

REFS: (A) USDAO MSG DTG 111442Z AUG 77, (B) STATE 191924

1. I TOO AM PERPLEXED BY GENERAL GUR'S COMMENTS TO  
BRUCE WILLIAMS AND WE HAVE BEEN ENERGETICALLY  
ATTEMPTING TO FOLLOW UP. GUR EXPRESSED MORE  
GUARDEDLY SOME OF SAME VIEWS TO ME AT DAYAN'S GARDEN  
RECEPTION WEDNESDAY NIGHT, AND SAID HE WANTED TO SEE ME  
URGENTLY TO PURSUE SUBJECT. WE FOLLOWED UP IMMEDIATELY  
AND INVITED HIM TO LUNCH, ONLY TO BE TOLD THAT HE WILL  
BE ON LEAVE ALL THIS WEEK WITH HIS FAMILY AT EN HOD  
(NEAR HAIFA). HIS OFFICE HAS NOW TENTATIVELY COMMITTED  
HIM TO LUNCH WITH ME ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, WHICH  
CERTAINLY DOES NOT SUPPORT THE URGENCY HE INITIALLY  
DISPLAYED.

2. IT IS APPARENT THAT GUR PLACES A GREAT DEAL OF  
EMPHASIS ON MAINTAINING A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE  
USG FOR EXACTLY THE REASONS YOU OUTLINE IN REF B. I  
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BELIEVE HIS INITIAL SENSE OF URGENCY CONCERNING  
MEETING WITH ME SO SOON AFTER THE SECRETARY'S VISIT  
MAY REFLECT THIS INTEREST. HOWEVER, HE IS ALSO A VERY  
ASTUTE POLITICIAN AND, UPON REFLECTION, MAY HAVE  
DECIDED THAT A COOLING OFF PERIOD WAS NECESSARY BEFORE  
MEETING WITH ME SO AS NOT TO CREATE AN IMPRESSION WITH  
WEIZMAN AND BEGIN THAT HE WAS GOING OUT OF CHANNELS.

HE IS ALREADY HAVING HIS PROBLEMS IN THAT ARENA WITH BUDGETS AND DISCIPLINE "SPIT AND POLISH" CHALLENGES TO HIS AUTHORITY.

3. AS YOU KNOW, GUR HAS BEEN OUTSPOKEN IN HIS CONVICTION THAT STEP-BY-STEP NEGOTIATIONS PROVIDE THE ONLY REAL PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE. HE ARGUES THAT THE BEGIN APPROACH, WITHOUT PRIOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE USG AND THE GOI ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS, IS DOOMED TO FAILURE. AS TO WHAT HE MEANS WHEN HE SAYS THAT FAILURE OF BEGIN'S APPROACH WILL BE COSTLY, WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE THAT HE IS REFERRING TO THE POSSIBILITY/PROBABILITY OF WAR BEING GREATER.

4. IN ADDITION TO GUR SUPPORTING THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH, DMI GENERAL GAZIT, DIR PLANS GENERAL TAMIR, AND DIR GEN ZUSSMAN, AMONG OTHERS, HAVE ALSO RECENTLY VOICED SIMILAR VIEWS IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH US. THUS WE CONCLUDE THAT GUR'S VIEWS MAY WELL BE REPRESENTATIVE OF AN IMPORTANT SEGMENT OF SENIOR IDF OFFICERS.

5. WE ALSO CONCUR IN YOUR ASSESSMENT THAT HIS PREVIOUS APPROACHES TO SETTLEMENT HAVE BEEN, FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, SUPPORTIVE AND COULD BE VIEWED AS "DOVISH." HE IS ANXIOUS TO CONTINUE THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS,  
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PREFERABLY FIRST IN THE SINAI, FOLLOWED BY THE GOLAN. HOWEVER, LIKE SO MANY OTHER SENIOR OFFICES, GENERAL GUR IS A HARD LINER ON THE WEST BANK.

6. BASED UPON HIS OWN STATEMENTS AND UPON OTHER INDICATORS, WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT GUR HAS BEEN A POSITIVE INFLUENCE IN AT LEAST DELAYING ACTION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, APPARENTLY PREFERRING TO ALLOW US EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS ALTERNATIVES IN BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS IN THE HOPE OF AVOIDING A CONFRONTATION WITH THE U.S. AS WELL AS A COLLISION ON THE GROUND WITH THE PALESTINIANS, LEBANESE AND SYRIANS.

7. I HOPE THE LUNCH WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE 26TH AND WE CAN PURSUE ALL THESE MATTERS FURTHER.  
LEWIS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PEACE PLANS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 16-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SENIOR IDF ATTITUDES TOWARD U.S. PEACE EFFORTS  
**TAGS:** MPOL, PBOR, IS, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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